



Menino pushes businesses to offer Hub teenagers jobs

By Chris Cassidy and Thomas Grillo | Wednesday, May 18, 2011 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | **Local Politics**

Mayor **Thomas M. Menino** urged small business owners to step up and provide summer jobs for eager city teens struggling to find work in a market so badly battered by recession and budget cuts that one youth employment agency reports being buried with thousands of applications and only enough money to fill 250 jobs.

"Smaller guys need to help us," Menino told the Herald. "Hire one or two people. It costs between \$1,800 and \$1,900 a kid."

Nonprofits trying to place teens in summer jobs warn that the shortage — triggered in part by the complete wipeout of federal funding that supported about 6,800 youth jobs across the state only two years ago — could lead to higher drop-out rates, crime and poverty.

"It'll be a waste of a summer," said John Drew of Action for Boston Community Development, which places low-income teens into part-time jobs. "You have to see the faces of these kids. They represent thousands. I see it all the time — the eagerness, the lights in their eyes. You don't want to see those lights go out."

ABCD already has 4,200 completed applications and expects to hit 7,000 by mid-June, but currently only has enough money from state and city sources to provide work for 250 kids.

"This is as worthy an enterprise for the use of your charitable giving as anything else you can find in the summer," said Drew, who promised to personally travel to donors' homes to pick up checks.

The city employed 10,173 teens last summer and that number will drop by about 2,500 this year due to state and federal budget cuts, said Conny Doty of the city's Boston Jobs & Community Service program.

"I will keep working to find summer jobs for these kids right through the middle of July," Menino said.

The state, however, is also considering cuts. Last year's budget included \$8 million for summer jobs and, while Gov. **Deval Patrick's** proposed budget provided an increase, the House voted earlier this month to trim the amount to \$6 million. The Senate will make its recommendations today.

"We're pushing as hard as we can," said Lt. Gov Tim Murray, who still remembers his first job at a sub shop in his old Worcester neighborhood. "It's so important to engage these kids in a positive way. It leads to a much more structured, positive and impactful summer."

City Councilor Tito Jackson said businesses have a responsibility to help young people earn a living and keep them off the streets.

"Our young people are not criminals," said Jackson. "... It's our job to give them the opportunity to shine and grow and become that next doctor, engineer or artist."

Carol Fulp, a John Hancock vice president, said the financial services giant boasts the largest corporate summer jobs program in the country. Last summer, it spent nearly \$1 million to fund 650 Boston youngsters.

"We view this as the next generation of Hancock employees and customers," said Fulp. "It makes good business sense."

Lew Finfer of the Youth Jobs Coalition said Menino and other advocates will rally in the financial district May 25 to push major corporations to hire city teens for the first time.

"We think some companies can step up more with youth jobs," Finfer said, "even in the recession."

Hillary Chabot, Margery Eagan and Colneth Smiley, Jr. contributed to this report.

Article URL: <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/politics/view.bg?articleid=1338777>

Related Articles:

General Dynamics adds 100 Pittsfield jobs
</business/general/view.bg?articleid=1341942>

More people applied for unemployment benefits
</business/general/view.bg?articleid=1340730>

Task force eyes problem properties
</news/politics/view.bg?articleid=1338756>



Photo by Matthew West

[Save on Boston Herald Home Delivery](#)

[Jobs with Herald Media](#)

For back copy information and more information on other collectible copies please call 617-426-3000 Ext. 7714. [Click here for Celtics, Patriots and Red Sox back copies](#)



© Copyright by the Boston Herald and Herald Media.
No portion of BostonHerald.com or its content may be reproduced without the owner's written permission. [Privacy Commitment](#)
